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OUR UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH

IN early colonial days there was but one course of study for all who entered an American college, and at its completion the candidate for a degree was required to translate the bible interchangeably into Hebrew, Latin, Greek or English. The culture of a long-past age was the sole concern of the college, and it heeded not the problems of the commonplace world beyond its walls. Its atmosphere was quite uncongenial to research, and the men of science of colonial times and of the several decades thereafter were commonly unconnected with the colleges.

Without aid or substantial recognition from our colleges, Harriot, Byrd, Clayton, Rittenhouse, Franklin, Wilson, Audubon, Rumsey, Fulton and Stevens strove or wrote. Indeed, of all the scientific worthies of those days John Winthrop, of Harvard, and Samuel Mitchill, of Columbia, were almost the only ones of note who labored within the shelter of the college.

With the birth of the republic, however, the most progressive of our colleges began to give courses in the sciences, and it was then that the spirit of research, which had already been fostered into being by men of culture of the outer world, made its first timid entrance within the college walls.

The efforts of its votaries attracted little or no official action on the part of the colleges for the expense involved in the prosecution of research in those early days was so slight that the professors themselves, small as their salaries were, could readily afford to meet them. Simple apparatus mainly the design of their own skilled hands, served Franklin and Henry for